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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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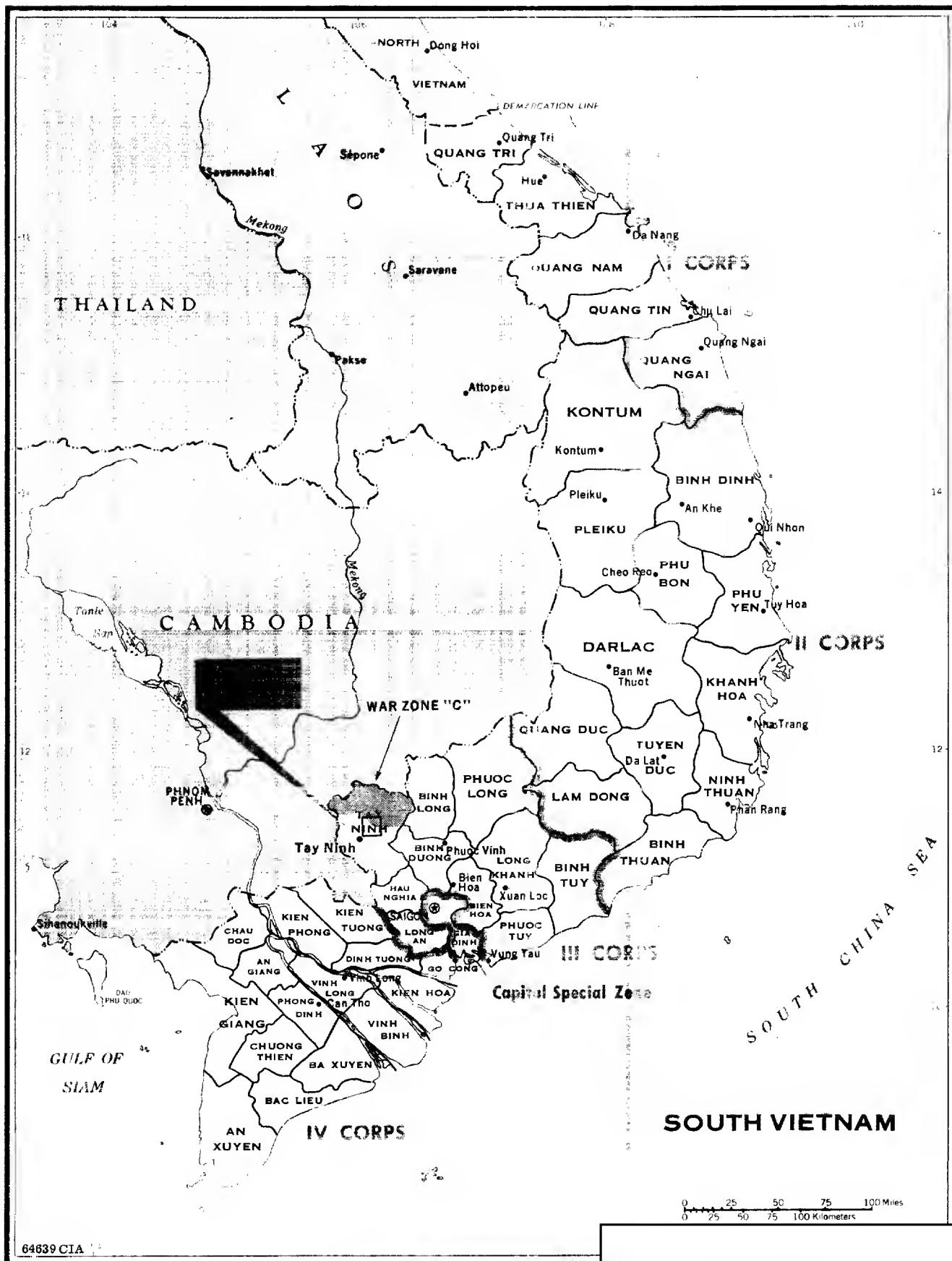
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Operation ATTLEBORO continues in central Tay Ninh Province with only light and sporadic contact with the Communists reported.

Allied forces operating 14 miles northwest of Tay Ninh city yesterday overran another base camp containing large quantities of foodstuffs. Some 400 tons of rice and 17 tons of salt were seized. Since ATTLEBORO began on 14 October, nearly 2,000 tons of rice have been captured by the allies. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: A top level shakeup in the Ky regime is reported to have taken place.

General Dang Van Quang, the controversial IV Corps commander, has agreed to become Minister of Revolutionary Development, [redacted]

[redacted] He is scheduled to replace General Nguyen Duc Thang, who is to become Chief of Staff of the Joint General Staff.

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This development could have far reaching consequences for the high priority Revolutionary Development program which has greatly benefited from Thang's dynamic leadership. No replacement is reported to have been selected for Quang, but several men have been mentioned, including acting II Corps commander General Nguyen Van Manh, a southerner.

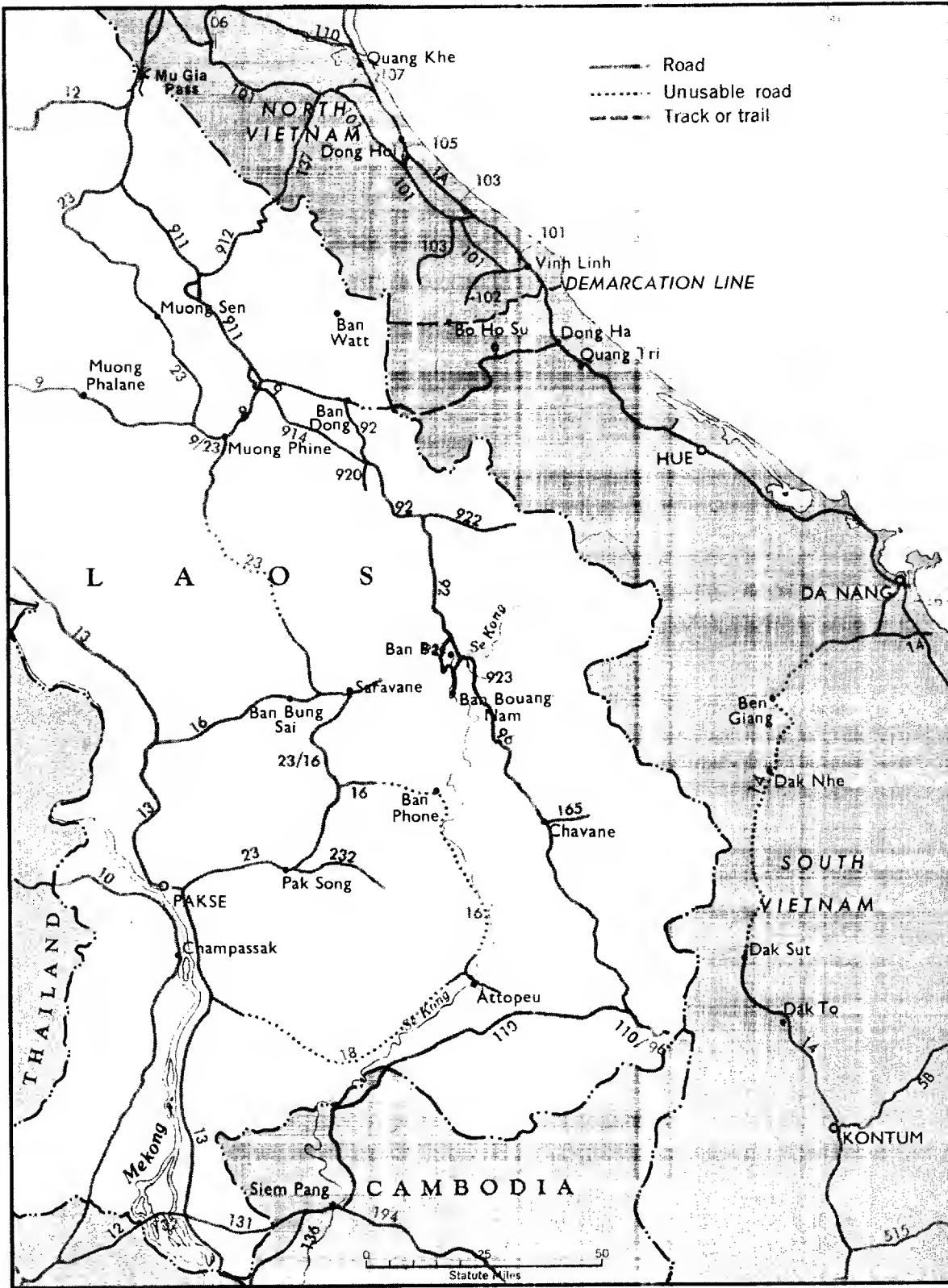
Concurrent with the replacement of Quang, a civilian official reportedly will be assigned to the IV Corps. He will be the civil administrator of the Corps area, leaving the military commander responsible solely for military affairs. This is to be a pilot project, and if successful, it is to be applied to the other Corps areas.

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LAOS PANHANDLE



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If effected, these reassessments have the earmarks of a political compromise, rather than a straight power play by Ky against southern influence in the regime. Although Quang's new post would remove him from operational control of military forces, he would still have an influential role in the government.

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In another political development, the South Vietnamese Government announced on 16 November the appointment of new ministers--all southerners--of education, youth, and social welfare to fill posts left vacant by southern ministers who recently resigned.

The US Embassy reports that the fourth vacant ministerial post--economy and finance--will be split into departments of commerce, industry, and finance. The activities of the new departments are to be coordinated by an economic council headed by Ky. The heads of the three departments are to be members of the council and National Bank Governor Hanh is to be its secretary general.

Laos Infiltration Truck Traffic: Trained observers report that between 6 and 11 November, about 250 trucks moved from North Vietnam through the Mu Gia Pass into the Laos panhandle and about 90 trucks moved from Laos back to North Vietnam.

This is the heaviest truck traffic ever reported through the pass during a five-day period. It exceeds

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the total number of trucks observed in this area from late September to mid-October, when the first significant traffic since the end of the 1965-66 dry season was reported.

Some of the trucks were reported to be carrying gasoline drums, suggesting that the Communists may be positioning supplies for a resumption of truck traffic south to the Vietnamese border. As of early November, photography indicated that the routes in the southern part of the panhandle were still impassable although repairs were underway.

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Dominican Republic: Increasing political tension could turn into civil strife in the next three to six months.

In its latest assessment of the situation, the US Embassy in Santo Domingo notes that the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), the most important opposition group, has adopted a policy of militance. The party has conditioned its support for constitutionality on the performance of the Balaguer regime, and has recently been claiming that the government is no longer "democratic." Some of the views of the leftist leadership of the PRD are similar to those of the Communists and other extreme leftists and could lead to their cooperation on some issues.

Balaguer's supporters are urging a hard line toward the opposition, and he is likely to be responsive. Recourse to authoritarian measures would probably increase the intransigence of leftist opposition elements and diminish support for the government. If the President does not adopt a firm stance, however, the military-civilian coalition supporting his regime would be subject to severe strains.

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Afghanistan: A showdown may be approaching between Afghanistan's first democratically elected Parliament and the government of Prime Minister Maiwandwal. In the month-old winter session of Parliament, the lower house deputies have once again been trying to increase their powers at the expense of the cabinet. The situation could come to a head during the next two weeks, when Parliament is expected to pass what one cabinet member has described as a "totally unworkable budget." Thus far the King, still the paramount power in the government, has not directly involved himself in the dispute.

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Nigeria: Efforts to bring the Eastern Region to the conference table have failed, and the interregional constitutional talks--scheduled to resume on 17 November--have been adjourned indefinitely. The disputants cannot agree on a site for the conference, much less resolve the substantive issues which divide the Eastern Region's position from that of the rest of the country. At present the over-all security situation is quiet, despite Eastern fears of a Northern invasion.

Indonesia: General Suharto has further consolidated his power by arresting a number of officers, some of high rank, who have been accused of plotting to kidnap him and certain other key military leaders. This action climaxes several weeks of growing tension in Djakarta arising from reports of some imminent move to shore up President Sukarno's declining political position. The arrests may give new impetus to Suharto's phased campaign to neutralize Sukarno and his supporters.

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